

**CITY OF MASON
JOINT MEETING WITH DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP
January 31, 2005**

Mayor Beck and Randy Kuvin called the meeting to order. Vice Mayor Pelfrey lead those present in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Steve Osborne, Tony Bradburn, Tom Grossmann, John McCurley, Charlene Pelfrey and Peter Beck. Also in attendance were the three Township Trustees, Randy Kuvin, Barbara Wilkins Reed and Lee Spiedel.

MASON PARKS

Steve Gayfield presented an overview of the current land the City of Mason owns that is to be utilized as parkland. He included the current status of the City's ball fields and what is projected for the future.

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP PARKS

Tony Lavatori presented an overview of the parkland currently owned by the township. He also included details of the Landen Park, which is owned by Warren County. He stated there will be three fields ready this year at Cottell Park. He said one of those has been saved for Mason's use. He also stated three baseball and 3 soccer fields are planned for the Fleckenstein property. The other park he mentioned was the Kings Commons Park where he said it may be possible to install 4 baseball fields.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

A general discussion took place with Steve Gayfield presenting projected figures on the expected usage for 2005. This included baseball, soccer, and youth football with lacrosse being mentioned. Both Steve and Tony agreed approximately 30% of the children using the fields are from the township. The Township trustees mentioned the Warren County Park, which is run by Warren County and is currently being used by Kings Knothole. They stated through coordination of scheduling, there may be some fields available there. Barbara Wilkins Reed suggested a meeting be held with all the interested parties who desire use of a field to coordinate a schedule. Randy Kuvin stated they are interested in assisting the situation and suggested opening up other parks for use such as the one on Middleboro Road and Gulley Park on US 42. He also stated he has met with the County on this matter and they are willing to assist if possible. Vice Mayor Pelfrey asked the Township Trustees if they could supply two or three fields at the Cottell Park. She stated she would like all three fields available for scheduling. They replied they would look into the matter. Councilmember McCurley asked how the fields would be ready by

spring. Tony replied they would be sodding the fields. Councilmember McCurley stated Mason has provided 100% of the fields in the past but the need continues to grow and it is not fair to Mason taxpayers to pay for fields being used by those outside of the City. He asked if it may be possible for the township to participate with the City in building fields on property owned by the City. Randy replied the township residents would not be happy to support a field under Mason's control. Councilmember Osborne asked what is the national average for required parkland. Mayor Beck responded 7% of land within a jurisdiction is considered the average for parks. Trustee Spiedel stated the Township is behind and to bring it to an equitable arrangement he is supportive of new fields being built. He suggested the 27-acre site on Montgomery Road. He also proposed providing two million dollars to purchase land west of I-71 for parks. It was noted by Councilmember McCurley the growth that remains to occur in the township is in the Mason School District thus the Township's portion of future use in the parks would also grow.

A resident commented that lighting the existing fields would be helpful as it would extend the amount of time the fields could be used. Ron Olson, a township resident, who also serves on the organization *Smarter Growth for Deerfield* stated the Township currently has 1.6% land for parks. He said much more should be purchased. He also said the kids should be able to play together regardless of where they reside. He encouraged the township to provide more fields. Jim Fox, a Mason resident, suggested a user fee be applied to Deerfield residents. Bob Payola, President of the Mason Knothole Association, stated three fields at Cottell Park should be given to Mason for scheduling. He encouraged the trustees to step up and participate. Rick Wellage, President of MYO stated 29% of the children are from the township. He added MYO is responsible for the two fields at Heritage Oak Park and possible two new fields behind Mason Intermediate. He said the City couldn't maintain the fields with the current staff. Bill Staten, President of SAY Soccer, said they personally paid for all the equipment. He stated field hockey also needs space. Steve Snider, a township resident, said more parkland needs to be purchased by the township and the bike paths should be interconnected. Tonya Hines, a township resident, stated politics should be put aside. She encouraged the township to open all fields to Mason. Councilmember Grossmann asked if a skate park was built near the Mason schools, would the township be interested in participating. Randy Kuvin responded he is willing to discuss it. Tom Lewis stated the Girls fast pitch teams needs more fields. It was decided Tony Lavatori and Steve Gayfield would meet and report back on the field scheduling for 2005. This must be done by February 22, 2005.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor